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### In the Claims

- 1. (Previously amended) A porous substrate comprising: a support; and an inorganic porous region on a surface of said support, the inorganic porous region having a surface capable of immobilizing probe molecules, the inorganic porous region having a tint and exhibits a reduced level of auto-fluorescence of at least about 15% relative to a comparable non-tinted porous substrate surface.
- 2. (Previously amended) The porous substrate according to claim 1, wherein said porous region having a tint that reduces relative auto-fluorescence levels by at least about 20% over said non-tinted porous substrate surface.
- 3. (Original) The porous substrate according to claim 2, wherein said porous region having a tint that reduces relative auto-fluorescence levels by at least about 50% over said non-tinted porous substrate surface.
- 4. (Cancelled)
- 5. (Original) The porous substrate according to claim 1, wherein said reduction in auto-fluorescence is over a wavelength range from about 400 nm to about 720 nm.
- 6. (Cancelled)
- 7. (Original) The porous substrate according to claim 1, wherein said tinted porous region has a colorant component including a transition metal ion.
- 8. (Currently amended) The porous substrate according to claim 1, wherein porous substrate consists essentially of:

Oxide

wt. %

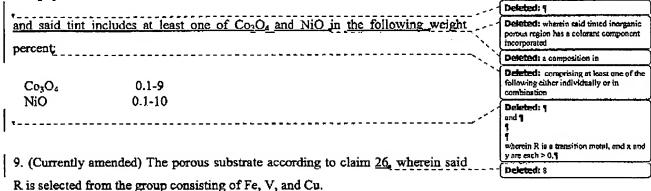
SiO<sub>2</sub>

53-67

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3-10
12-24
0-5
0-2
0.5-3
0-3
2-7
0-2

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10. (Currently amended) The porous substrate according to claim 1, wherein said inorganic porous region has a composition consisting essentially of:

Oxide	wt. %
SiO₂	55 <b>-65</b>
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	4-9
$B_2O_3$	14-21
K₂O	1-5
MgO	0.1-2
CaO	1-2.5
SrO	0.5-1.75
BaO	3-5
Sb <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0-2
$R_xO_x$	<u>0-2</u>

and said tint including at least one of Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and NiO in the following weight

percent:

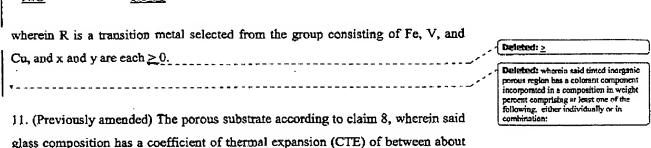
C03O4 0.1 - 8

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NiO

35-44 x 10<sup>-7</sup>/°C.

0.1-10



- 12. (Original) The porous substrate according to claim 11, wherein said glass composition has a CTE of about  $38-40 \times 10^{-7}$ °C.
- 13. (Previously amended) The porous substrate according to claim 1, wherein said tinted region has an average auto-fluorescence background for Cy3 and Cy5 channels of up to about 50% RFU of said un-tinted porous substrate.
- 14. (Original) The porous substrate according to claim 1, wherein a number of biological or chemical probes are attached at defined locations on or within said tinted porous layer.
- 15. (Original) The porous substrate according to claim 13, wherein said defined locations of probes assume a microarray format of at least one microspot per cm<sup>2</sup>.
- 16. (Original) The porous substrate according to claim 13, wherein said defined locations of probes assume a microarray format of at least 10 microspots per cm<sup>2</sup>.
- 17. (Original) The porous substrate according to claim 1, wherein said probe molecules include at least one kind of species selected from the following: oligonucleotides, nucleotides, nucleosides, DNA, RNA, peptide nucleic acid Revised: March 7, 2000

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(PNA), peptides, polypeptides, protein domains, proteins, fusion proteins, antibodies, protein-membranes, G-coupled protein receptors, gangliosides, lipids, lipid membranes, cells or cell membranes, cell-lysate, or protein-small molecule ligands.

- 18. (Previously amended) A tool for performing biological or chemical assays, the tool comprises a non-porous support; and an inorganic porous region on a surface of said support, the inorganic porous region having a surface capable of immobilizing probe molecules, the inorganic porous region having a tint and exhibits a reduced level of auto-fluorescence of at least about 15% relative to a comparable non-tinted porous substrate surface.
- 19. (Previously amended) The tool according to claim 18, wherein said porous region having a tint that reduces relative auto-fluorescence levels by at least about 20% over said non-tinted porous substrate surface.
- 20. (Original) The tool according to claim 18, wherein said tinted porous region has a colorant component including a transition metal ion.
- 21. (Currently amended) The tool according to claim 18, wherein said inorganic porous region consists essentially of:

0/
wt. %
53-67
3-10
12-24
0-5
0-2
0.5-3
0-3
2-7
0-2
0-10

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and at least one	of Co <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> and NiO in th	ne following weight percent:	herein said tirted porous colorant component in a composition in weight orising
Co₃O₄ NiO	0.1-9 0.1-10		e following either or in combination
		Deleted: at R,Oy	nd ¶[1]

wherein R is a transition metal, and x and y are each > 0.

- 22. (Original) The tool according to claim 21, wherein said R is selected from the group consisting of Fe, V, and Cu.
- 23. (Original) The tool according to claim 18, wherein said probe molecules are biological or chemical molecules, including at least one kind of the following: oligonucleotides, nucleotides, nucleosides, DNA, RNA, peptide nucleic acid (PNA), peptides, polypeptides, protein domains, proteins, fusion proteins, antibodies, gangliosides, membrane proteins, lipids, lipid membranes, cellular membranes, cell lysates, oligosaccharides, or polysaccharides, or lectins.
- 24. (Currently amended) The porous substrate according to claim 1, said porous
  region further comprising pores having pore sizes of about 5 μm.

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  Deleted: 0.5

  25. (Currently amended) The tool according to claim 18, wherein said porous
  region has pore sizes between about 0.5 μm to about 1.0 μm.

  Deleted: greater
- 26. (New) The porous substrate according to claim 8, further comprising a transition metal R alone or in oxide composition R<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> wherein x and y are each > 0.